

Currents

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Megwa Ezhiweback



Waawaaskone-Giizis (Flower Moon)
May 2010 Vol.7 Issue 5

ALSO IN THIS
PUBLICATION

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APPLICATIONS

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Office of Public
Affairs
Contact Information
1-888-723-8288
1-231-398-6840

Members Assistance

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INDIAN
VILLAGE
CAMP
Pages 12, 13

Outlying Council Election Preliminary Results

Vote by mail – 531

Hand Tally – 9

5 were rejected

Individual totals:

• (Deacon) Jeremy Wilson –	13
• Lee Sprague -	195 (36.11%)
• Edward Tyler -	9
• Helen J. North -	26
• Gilbert (Chip) Dipiazza -	10
• Rick Sprague (Big Thunder) -	29
• Michael Ceplina -	77 (14.26%)
• Kimberly M. Alexander -	78 (14.44%)
• Gary E. Tyler -	6
• Sandy Lempke Mezeske -	38
• Jamie L. Friedel -	9
• Harold J. Battice II -	23
• Donald M. Stone -	1
• Rita A. Gale -	9
• Larry R Olson -	17



The tentative winner of
the Outlying Council
seat election is former
Ogema Lee Sprague
with 195 votes

The Recorder's report will be
published in the next edition of the
Currents.

Please continue to monitor the Tribal
Council's website for the published
minutes and resolutions of Tribal
Council at:

<https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/council/>

Spring Membership Meeting Page 24



Aanii:

Spring has arrived and the Spring Membership Meeting was well attended. A new record was set for attendance with 377 citizens registered and approximately 800 people in attendance. The meeting was also broadcast "live". Most of the comments have been positive about the meeting and the Friday night Meet and Greet.

During the time of our Fall Membership Meeting in October, the Tribal Government and Little River Casino Resort are expected to hold a sale of miscellaneous items; more information will follow in future Currents.

By the time you receive this, a new Council person will have been elected.

The big news for this month is the Muskegon Project. The efforts to build a casino in Muskegon took some significant steps forward in March.

On March 19th, Governor Jennifer Granholm and I, signed the Little River Band of Ottawa Indian's Compact Amendments which help clear the way for the development of a second site casino. On the following Monday, March 22nd, Fruitport Township unanimously approved a Mutual Aid Agreement (MSA), with the Tribe. On Tuesday, Muskegon County Officials unanimously approved the same Mutual Aid Agreement. All

parties agreed that the negotiations were handled professionally and respectfully.

Along with myself as Ogema, LRBOI Commerce Director, Robert Memberto and Executive Lead Attorney, Dan Green and Glenn Zaring were the primary contacts in the negotiations with the various Governments. Public Safety Director, Joseph LaPorte assisted with the MSA portion dealing with law enforcement and fire. Council Speaker, Steve Parsons represented Council early on and other Councilors later joined the initiative as well as representatives from the Little River Casino Resort which included Connie Waitner and Ron Pete.

While these are significant steps forward, there are several more steps before we are there. The State of Michigan Legislature needs to approve an additional Amendment, intensive environmental testing needs to be completed which can take many months even a couple of years to complete. We also need the Department of Interior approval. But the Compact Amendments with the Governor allows us to move forward to the National level.

Governor Jennifer Granholm has encouraged the State Legislature to approve the remaining compact amendment, saying that it... "is in the best interest of the State and public." The Manistee Little

River Casino Resort continues to be exceeding expectations and remains a popular casino in West Michigan. We continue to work towards making the Casino a "destination resort". Bringing Bingo to the Resort has been in the works for some time and a September opening is probable. Market studies indicate a strong market for the area.

LRBOI Government continues to assess the possibility of building a new government center in Manistee north of the Little River Casino Resort on what is known as the Bull Property on the Northwest corner of US 22 and Dontz Rd.

Until next month...



ANYWAY

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.

Love them anyway.

If you do good , people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies

Succeed anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest people with the smallest minds.

Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.

Fight for some underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People really need help, but may attack you if you try and help them.

Help them anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you've got anyway.



New Employee at Natural Resources



The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Natural Resources Department has announced an addition to their staff. Please welcome Daniel Mays.

Biography – Daniel Mays (LRBOI - Aquatic Researcher)

I was born and raised in Muskegon County, MI. I have a Masters degree in Biology and a Bachelors degree in Natural Resource Management with a minor in Statistics, both from Grand Val-

ley State University. I have worked several different positions within the field of science including a Fisheries Technician for the U.S. Forest Service out of Manistee, an Aquatic Biologist for a private consulting firm, and most recently, teaching Math and Science courses at Baker College of Cadillac. My primary interests include stream ecology, and in particular, the habitat and behavior of stream resident trout. When not in waders, I also enjoy playing the guitar or a game of pick-up hockey.

New Gaming Employee



Hello my name is Michelle Robson. I reside in Manistee with my boyfriend and our two wonderful children Shawn -21 months and Dylan 9 months. Coming with approximately 10 years of Gaming Audit experience through Soaring Eagle and Little River, I have accepted the

position of Gaming Internal Auditor through the Gaming Commission. As of September 2010 I will have obtained my BS in Accounting from the University of Phoenix and will then proceed to get my Masters. I have enjoyed working for the Little River Band and look forward to the new and exciting opportunities that come with the new position.

Elk and Bear Permit Application

The Natural Resource Commission will be holding a lottery drawing for Elk and Black Bear permits for the 2009 season. If you are interested in participating in these lotteries, please return this application with the following information completed.

You will be contacted by telephone if your name is drawn for a elk or black bear permit.

Need not be present to be selected

Natural Resources close 5pm

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone : _____ Cell Phone: _____

Tribal ID # _____

Are you an elder? Yes[] No []

Black Bear []

Drawing Date: July 10, 201

Drawing will be held at the new Community Center at 12:00 pm

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone : _____ Cell Phone: _____

Tribal ID # _____

Are you an elder? Yes[] No []

Elk []

Drawing Date: July 10, 2010

Drawing will be held at the new Community Center at 12:00 pm

Attention all Tribal Members

Tribal Committee/Commission openings.

Gaming Commission 2 openings

Health Commission 2 openings

Natural Resource 1 opening

Binojeeuk 2 openings

Muschigon 3 openings

LRCR Board 2 openings

Anyone interested in serving on any of the above commissions need to submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office.

Letters of interest will be kept on file for one year

JOBS FOR TODAY & TOMORROW

JOB OUTLOOK THROUGH 2012

"There is a direct link between learning and earning. That's why it is critical that everyone pursue education after high school, which could include a vast array of opportunities including apprenticeship, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees." - **Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor**

<u>Michigan's Demand Occupations</u>	<u>Average Hourly Wage</u>	<u>Projected Annual Job Openings</u>	<u>Percent Job Growth 2002-2012</u>	<u>Education and Training Beyond High School</u>
Personal Financial Advisors	\$57.56	131	29.5	Bachelor's degree
Sales Managers	\$48.32	391	26.3	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience
Marketing Managers	\$46.41	141	19.6	Bachelor's degree plus work experience
General and Operations Managers	\$45.25	1,248	12.3	Bachelor's degree plus work experience
Financial Managers	\$44.85	350	13.2	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$44.35	341	28.5	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience
Construction Managers	\$41.56	170	10.4	Degree preferred, long-term on-the-job-training (OJT)
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$36.32	304	22.3	Bachelor's degree plus work experience
Physician Assistants	\$36.19	139	36.4	Bachelor's degree
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	\$34.53	270	45.3	Bachelor's degree or higher
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	\$34.40	446	36.5	Bachelor's degree or higher
Sales Representatives, Wholesale/Manufacturing Technical and Scientific Products	\$33.86	605	18.4	Moderate OJT plus subject matter knowledge
Management Analysts	\$33.83	420	24.9	Bachelor's degree or higher plus work experience
Computer Systems Analysts	\$31.57	740	31.5	Bachelor's degree or higher
Physical Therapists	\$30.27	184	27.3	Master's degree
Purchasing Angents excl. Wholesale, Retail and Farm Products	\$27.94	378	11.0	Degree preferred plus work experience plus OJT
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	\$27.42	185	45.6	Bachelor's degree
Detectives and Criminal Investigators	\$27.04	87	16.1	Degree preferred plus work experience plus OJT
Sales Representatives, Wholesale/Manufacturing excl. Technical & Scientific Products	\$26.59	2,251	18.2	Moderate OJT plus subject matter knowledge
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$26.46	265	30.2	Bachelor's degree
Cost Estimators	\$26.31	324	16.6	Bachelor's degree plus work experience
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$26.09	60	12.4	Apprenticeship or postsecondary technical training
Advertising Sales Agents	\$25.76	151	11.7	Moderate OJT
Electricians	\$25.72	1,065	20.5	Apprenticeship, postsecondary technical training, or long-term OJT, state license
Public Relations Specialists	\$25.61	263	25.2	Bachelor's degree
Registered Nurses	\$25.30	3,132	18.9	Bachelor's or associate's degree
Dental Hygienists	\$24.93	272	24.7	Associate's degree or apprenticeship
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$24.08	734	15.9	Apprenticeship, postsecondary technical training, or long-term OJT, state license
Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	\$23.68	125	15.3	Degree preferred, work experience
Sheet Metal Workers	\$22.89	255	17.4	Apprenticeship or moderate OJT
Brickmasons and Blockmasons	\$22.34	181	17.0	Apprenticeship or long-term OJT
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators				
Police and Sheriffs Patrol Officers	\$22.15	122	15.8	Degree preferred or long-term OJT
Heating/AC and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$21.63	790	17.4	Specialized OJT
	\$21.59	269	27.0	Apprenticeship, postsecondary technical training, or long-term OJT
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators				
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, excl. Engines	\$20.81	363	10.1	Apprenticeship or moderate OJT
	\$19.97	136	18.0	Apprenticeship, postsecondary technical training
Production, Planning, and Expditing Clerks				
Carpenters	\$19.27	386	15.0	Short-term OJT
Insulation Workers	\$18.93	1,175	14.5	Apprenticeship, postsecondary technical training, or long-term OJT

JOBS FOR TODAY & TOMORROW JOB OUTLOOK THROUGH 2012

<u>Michigan's Demand Occupations</u>	<u>Average Hourly Wage</u>	<u>Projected Annual Job Openings</u>	<u>Percent Job Growth 2002-2012</u>	<u>Education and Training Beyond High School</u>
Insulation Workers	\$18.72	95	26.1	Apprenticeship or moderate OJT
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	\$18.65	234	24.6	Apprenticeship, postsecondary technical training, or long-term OJT
Correctional Officers and Jailers	\$18.24	348	10.1	Degree preferred or moderate OJT
Roofers	\$18.18	168	14.2	Apprenticeship or moderate OJT
Painters, Construction and Maintenance	\$17.71	330	14.1	Apprenticeship or moderate OJT
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$17.24	1,908	18.2	Apprenticeship or moderate OJT
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$17.17	1367	14.2	Moderate OJT
Construction Laborers	\$15.94	552	13.2	Apprenticeship or moderate OJT
Self-Enrichment Education Teachers	\$15.80	270	38.3	Expertise in subject matter
Human Resources Assistants excl. Payroll/Timekeeping	\$15.46	149	13.5	Short-term OJT
Bill Account Collectors	\$15.17	372	19.0	Some college preferred, moderate OJT
Reservations and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	\$15.03	154	14.6	Short-term OJT

Note: The forecasts above highlight positive long-term growth occupations. They do not necessarily reflect current hiring demand.

Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives: www.michigan.gov/lmi

Would You Like to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference?

The Wildlife Society Announces a Professional-Development Program for Native American Students Interested in the Wildlife Profession

As a scientific organization for professionals who manage and conserve wildlife and habitats, The Wildlife Society (TWS) is increasingly concerned about the lack of ethnic and cultural diversity within the profession. Diversity is essential if the profession is to grow and meet the nation's conservation challenges. To help address this concern, TWS is establishing a new professional-development program for Native American wildlife students.

The Native American community has enormous potential to enrich diversity within the wildlife profession. Tribal lands are important to a national strategy for fish and wildlife conservation, and Native American students are showing a growing interest in pursuing careers in wildlife. TWS has an active Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group composed of wildlife professionals and students, tribal and non-tribal, who recognize native people's cultural, spiritual, and biological connections to the land. TWS and the Working Group have been exploring ways to promote the early development of Native American wildlife professionals.

How the New Program Works

The Wildlife Society believes that one of the most-effective ways to support Native American wildlife students is to give them the opportunity to attend TWS's Annual Conference—the

largest gathering of wildlife professionals on the North American continent. The Society is therefore raising funds to enable Native American students to attend the 17th Annual Conference, to be held in Snowbird, Utah, October 2-6, 2010. Individuals selected for this program will receive grants of \$1,500 each to help cover registration fees, lodging, meals, and transportation.

Program participants also will receive a one-year membership in The Wildlife Society and become members of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group. As TWS members they will receive our quarterly member magazine The Wildlife Professional, our monthly electronic newsletter The Wildlifer, discounts on TWS peer-reviewed publications such as The Journal of Wildlife Management, and access to the TWS website, blog, job board, and other online resources.

Eligibility: Candidates must be members of a Native American, First Nations, or Indigenous Tribe, and currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline such as wildlife biology or ecology. Applicants must display a record of academic excellence and a strong interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management or conservation. Qualified applicants will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the Chair of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group, two other working-group members, a TWS staff member, and representatives from other program partners including the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

Applications: Submissions must include name, address, tribal affiliation, name of college or university, current level of study (undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate), field of study, and a copy of most recent report card, showing courses and grades. Mention any relevant extracurricular activities, memberships in societies, honors, or awards. Also include an essay (500-750 words) explaining why you'd like to participate, how this program might benefit your career development, and how your personal experiences or skills can contribute to the wildlife profession. Deadline: Please email applications to nsvoboda@cfr.msstate.edu no later than August 6, 2010.

TWS would like to thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, the U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs for their generous financial support of this worthwhile effort. With the help of these valued partners, TWS believes the wildlife profession will increase its diversity and benefit from the insights of Native American people concerned about the conservation of wildlife and wild lands.

Application Deadline: August 6, 2010

For conference information:

www.wildlife.org/conference

Current Assistance Programs

Department Staff

Lee A. Ivinson – Members Assistance Coordinator
Amber Moore – Intake Clerk
Linda Wissner – Intake Clerk
Office Hours Mon thru Thurs 8 am to 5 pm



FY2010 Members Assistance Department Programs

Programs are available in ALL STATES with the exception of the grant funded programs as noted in program listing.

*Food Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a dietary/food crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. If household is receiving food assistance from another agency, it is the responsibility of the applicant to verify with agency to ensure accessing this program will not affect current benefits. Submission of receipts is a requirement of this program. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.

*Low Income Energy Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing an energy crisis. Assistance may be accessed once per year up to maximum amount not to exceed \$300. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
- Received a denial from an outside agency for utility assistance
- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.

*Emergency Transportation Assistance

The Emergency Transportation Assistance Program assists members experiencing a transportation crisis.

Program scope for assistance is repair or replacement of mechanical and/or electrical items required for proper vehicle operation and maintenance of safety items.

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Vehicle ownership is in the name of the Tribal member or a residence verified permanent member of the household
- Vehicle areas in need of repair meet the scope of the program.

Amount of assistance – Up to maximum of \$400.00 per household.

*Elder Chore Assistance Program

The Elder Chore Assistance assists elders age 55 and older. This program is intended to provide limited, short-term financial assistance to eligible Elder members who are disabled and are limited in their ability to perform routine household chores essential to their health and safety and have no other recourse for assistance.

There is no income requirement for this program. Elder must be a permanent member of the household and must provide proof of a permanent or temporary physical disability. Temporary disability shall be for no less than 30 days and shall be verified by documented evidence of temporary disability from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional. Permanent disability shall be verified by documented evidence from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional.

The assistance for elder chore services are identified in the categories below;

- ☐ Snow Removal from drive way and sidewalks
- ☐ Weather stripping around doors and windows
- ☐ Grass cutting, leaf raking and removal, general clearing of debris around home
- ☐ Gutter cleaning
- ☐ General cleaning of the household including but not limited to dusting and cob web removal, vacuuming, trash removal, bathroom cleaning of toilets and water closets, dishwashing, laundry, scrubbing floors and walls, cleaning of appliances, washing windows, stripping and making of beds
- ☐ Circumstances that are outside the scope of items listed may be applicable to the program scope only if left un-serviced poses a threat to the health and safety of the elder.

Amount of Assistance – Up to maximum of \$400.00 per household.

*Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and experiencing a housing crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Program may be access once every two years. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received a court ordered eviction or foreclosure notice
- Relocation to affordable housing
- Relocation due to loss of housing due to natural disaster
- Relocation due to substandard housing as documented by an inspector
- If program has been accessed in the past, received a denial from an outside agency for assistance.
- Amount of assistance: Equivalent to one month's rent or mortgage payment not to exceed program maximum program amount available to prevent or resolve housing crisis.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME- (Tribally funded programs) – Household income eligibility determination is based on three (3) months income prior to application. Applicant must provide proof of income for three months. Applicant and/or permanent household member shall complete the zero income form for periods within the three months where there is no income generated. Income requirement includes all individuals in household age 18 and older. Deductions from Gross Income: Child support paid out and unreimbursed medical bills.

*Program can be accessed by the Parent or Guardian of a member who has not reached the age of 18 or the legal guardian of a member who has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to require legal guardian over the person and/or affairs, provided that the guardian is not the State of Michigan or other state government. This information must be on file with the Enrollment Department.

~THE FOLLOWING ARE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO THE NINE COUNTY SERVICE AREAS OF MICHIGAN~

NOTE** LIHEAP funds are available in all counties of Michigan, for the counties outside of the Tribal 9 county service areas the local Department of Health and Human Services administers this program under their guideline rules. LIHEAP is also available in all states through their local Health and Human Services and Housing Authorities.

*LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Heat Source – Natural Gas, Propane, Electric, Coal, Fuel Oil and Wood)

This is a grant funded program to provide assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a heating crisis and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

-Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

-Priority is given to Elders, Disabled and Single parents of young children.

-Eligible if someone in the household is receiving SSI benefits or are receiving Food Stamps

LIHEAP –

Cooling Assistance LIHEAP Component- Tribal Elders

This is a grant funded component of LIHEAP to provide assistance to Tribal Elders who meet the eligibility requirements, have a medical condition that require air conditioning during hot summer months, are experiencing an energy crisis due to additional energy burden to operate the cooling system and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

-Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

-Medical condition and need for air conditioning must be certified and documented by medical professional.

- Assistance is available May 1, 2010 thru September 30, 2010.

REACH Program

The REACH program will be utilized to promote health and safety for low income households in need of assistance and education in reducing and controlling energy costs. Successful applicants will participate in a health and safety questionnaire and provide data for energy use and track the % of decreases in energy expenses over a 16 month period. The focus of the program will be promoting energy efficiency, education in conservation of energy and budgeting skills to reduce energy crisis. The program will promote Energy Smart Bulbs , Weatherization & Education, Energy Smart Appliances , Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Detectors and Fire Extinguishers. Eligibility criteria:

- Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- Household income does not exceed program guidelines
- Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name where applicable and/or must have a 12 month lease / rental agreement.

Well and Septic Program

The Well and Septic is an Indian Health Services (IHS) funded program. This program promotes health and safety for our tribal members by providing new or renovated sanitation facilities (Well and Septic). This program is available in the nine county service areas. Applicant must be:

- Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name.
- Project Site meets the I.H.S Eligibility Requirements.

A complete application and the supporting documents must be submitted in order to process assistance request in a timely manner. Supporting documents are listed on the cover page of the application.

Please contact the Members Assistance Department for program information and/or to request an application. Applications and Program Regulations are available online at www.lrboi.com Members Assistance link

Other Services:

- Referral assistance in finding assistance organizations and/or agencies to assist with needs that are not readily available or provided through tribal programs.
- Interdepartmental Referral Services that provided interdepartmental coordination and collaboration with tribal service departments when assisting members.

To ensure there is continued outreach efforts in getting information out to tribal citizens about available or upcoming programs the Members Assistance Department will from time to time post information in the currents.

REACH Program- Funding is available to assist up to 100 households. The program is available to citizens residing in the 9 County Services Area. This program is successful in decreasing energy costs and in our current economy energy savings would be helpful to our already low income households. Studies have shown that replacing regular bulbs with energy efficient CFL lighting reduces energy costs by 20%. This is only one portion the program and with a combination of other elements the cost savings for households is tremendous. The

REACH program promotes:

Energy Smart Bulbs, Weatherization & Education, Energy Smart Appliances, Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers

To request an application, contact the Members Assistance Department

ELDER MEAL PROGRAM – Aki Community Center - Manistee

We are getting closer to having an Elder Meal Program available at the Aki Community Center. During this time an over the phone intake will register you for this program. During the 1st lunch the registration will be completed and you will be eligible to participate. A nutritious meal will be served and activities and informational presentations will be provided.

Elders may contact the Members Assistance Department for an over the phone intake process that will register you for this program. This program is being implemented to reduce hunger and food insecurity, Promote socialization of Elders and Promote health and well-being of older individuals and delay adverse health conditions through access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion services.

Please contact the Members Assistance Department for over the phone intake. We will keep you posted on lunch dates and menu plan.

Members Assistance Department
Office Hours Mon thru Thurs 8 am to 5 pm
Phone: 231-723-8288 or Toll Free 888-723-8288

Memo to Tribal Citizens

Subject: Members Assistance Program Application Requirements

The Membership Assistance Department would like to provide information to assist in program application submission and tips in having assistance applications processed in a timely manner.

Each application consists of a cover page which lists all **required** documentation that must be submitted with an application. This information is required for determining eligibility for programs within the Members Assistance Department. If **required** documentation is not submitted with application a follow up letter will be mailed to applicant informing them of missing information. Per Regulation, the Members Assistance Department has five business days to complete the eligibility process of an application once **all** required documentation is submitted and applications that remain incomplete 30 days after receipt of the application shall be closed by the Members Assistance Department and applicants must submit a new application to begin the process again. Applications are processed in the order they are received. In the event the application is incomplete, missing documentation etc. the application is placed on hold pending the resolve of follow up items.

A common misconception applicant's may have is the term "household". The household is all individuals residing in the household, not only the tribal citizens. The Members Assistance Regulation Section 2 Definitions states; *Household* is defined as any persons living in the same residence maintaining a single economic unit and also includes any person living alone/single who is a permanent member of and participates in the maintenance of the household. *Household Income* is defined as the sum of income received in the calendar year by **all** members of the household, including household members not related to the head of the household, people living alone/single within household, and other non-family member within household.

Income eligibility programs are based on the past three months' income. Verification of income includes all forms of earned (wages) and unearned (Social Security, DHS food/cash assistance, child support, any money assistance received in the form of grants or financial aid, etc...) income. If a member in the household is claiming zero **earned** income for all or partial income verification a notarized Zero Income Form must be submitted with application. Per Regulation Section 3-1 (d)...Applicant and/or permanent household members shall complete the zero income form for periods within the three months where there is not income generated. The zero income form shall be notarized attesting that there is no income from any resource.

Copies of Tribal Id's and Driver License must be submitted with applications. Addresses on State Id's and/or Drivers License must coincide with the address on the application and the address on file with the Enrollment Department. If this information is not consistent with the information on file with Enrollment then it must be brought up to date before assistance can be provided.

Tips to ensuring a timely processing of assistance applications:

Review cover letter of required documents –

Make sure address information is current and consistent with the information on file with Enrollment.

Submit copy of the required documents –

Review your submission before placing in the mail-

Allow 3 to 5 business days for mail to arrive -

Do not wait for a shut off notice to apply for assistance.

If immediate assistance is needed – contact the Members Assistance Department for assistance referrals in your areas. Programs available through the Members Assistance Department are not intended to be the only resource for assistance.

If you have any questions when completing an application contact the Members Assistance Department at toll free 888-723-8288 and ask for Amber Moore, ext. 6731, or Linda Wissner, ext. 6733.



What is the right way to do background investigations?



17 Law Enforcement Officers attended a two day training session in mid-March which addressed the law, the right techniques and the proper forms for these specialized investigations.

Brian Harvey of Harvey Ward & Associates presented the training which gave officers the tools,

both verbal and written on how to properly conduct background investigations. Harvey reviewed Federal requirements and guidelines and provided sample forms being used elsewhere in Law Enforcement as examples of the right way to approach this work.

Two officers from Little River attended the training which is important to the tribe because of our enforcement of the Indian Child Welfare Act. This act requires that any employees who can come into contact with children must undergo an extensive background check. Because the tribe hosted the conference, the LRBOI officers were able to attend at no charge.

Attendees included officers from LRBOI, Muskegon County, Manistee County, Emmett County, Hart City, Wexford County, Delta County

(from the U.P.), Claire County and even three from the state of Virginia. This training is MCOLES certified.

The training was presented by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Public Safety Department and the Little River Casino Resort and was held in the Three Fires Conference Center.



2010 Workshops *Migizi Doodem Mookodaasowinini* *Eagle Clan Carver*

Please note new contact information!

Ron Paquin
2433 Polish Line Rd.
Cheboygan MI 49721
231-268-3344
mmpaquin@charter.net

2010 WORKSHOPS

Porcupine Quill Box – Mondays, July 12, 19, and 26 (three full days 9 am to 4 pm). All materials provided; bring your own lunch. Learn the basics of quillwork. \$100.00

Dreamcatcher - Monday, August 2, 9 a.m. to noon. Weave a dreamcatcher web onto red willow and embellish with a feather and beads. All materials provided; bring your own lunch if you are taking both classes on this day. \$25.00

Necklace - Monday, August 2, 1 pm to 4 pm – made with porcupine quills, beads, fish vertebrae and an antler carved feather. All materials provided; bring your own lunch if you are taking both classes on this day. \$25.00

Blueberry Basket - Mondays, (two full days) August 16 and 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Six sided birchbark basket sewn with sweetgrass and embellished with pine cones. All materials provided. Bring your own lunch. \$100.00

TO REGISTER: Send your check or money order for full amount payable to Ron Paquin, 2433 Polish Line Rd., Cheboygan MI 49721. Your reservation is confirmed only upon receipt of your payment. First come, first served! Classes fill quickly! Should I have to cancel for any reason, I will refund your total amount. All classes will be at my home. Please include your name/address/phone/email with your payment.



Thanks and I look forward to seeing you!
Ron

President Obama Donates \$125,000 of Nobel Prize Money to American Indian College Fund

Waawaaskone-Giizis (Flower Moon)
May 2010 Vol.7 Issue 5



Denver, Colorado – President Obama announced last month that he will donate \$125,000 of his \$1.4 million Nobel Peace Prize monies to the American Indian College Fund (the Fund). In a statement issued by the WhiteHouse, Obama said of

Americans can help those less fortunate. The gift will be used to support Native scholarships at America's 33 accredited tribal colleges and universities."

About the American Indian College Fund With its credo "Educating the Mind and Spirit," the Denver-based American Indian College

Fund is the nation's largest provider of private scholarships for American Indian students, providing more than 5,000 scholarships annually for students seeking to better their lives and communities through education at the nation's 33 accredited tribal colleges and universities.

the Fund and nine other charity organizations that received donations from the president, "These organizations do extraordinary work in the United States and abroad helping students, veterans and countless others in need. I'm proud to support their work."

"We are thrilled that President Obama has chosen to publicly acknowledge the work the American Indian College Fund is doing in Indian Country by sharing \$125,000 of his prestigious Nobel Peace Prize award with us," said Richard B. Williams, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund. "As a result of President Obama's vision and leadership, through his donation to the Fund along with nine other outstanding charities, he is setting an example for how all

The Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians
15th Traditional Jiingtamok

for more information
888-723-8288
ext 6891 or 6895

GAACHINGZIBIDA WAAANISHINABEK OGEMAKIDAAGEWIN

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2010

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Little River
Casino Resort
Manistee, Michigan



Peacemaking Talking Circle

I

By

Patrick D. Wilson

As we get started on this year's projects, programs, and plans, the Peacemaking Department is once again working on a series of articles. This time the focus will be on the "Talking Circle" and "Keepers."

There are different Types of Talking Circles

As more and more people learned of the talking circle concept, they have found many different ways of using talking circles. The different kinds of talking circles began to have titles that fit their function. The Peacemaking/Probation Department we use what we call a Peacemaking Talking Circle. Today talking circles are held by many different fields, programs, and departments. Each has their own take on the use of talking circles.

Here are some titles that the Restorative Justice Field has used to name "Circles."

- Talking
- Understanding
- Healing
- Sentencing
- Support
- Community-Building
- Conflict
- Reintegration
- Celebration

The Peacemaking Talking Circle

The term "Peacemaking Talking Circle means we use the elements from the Talking Circle, the Understanding Circle, and the Conflict Circle, along with the Healing Circle, and certain parts of the Sentencing and Support Circles. What this means is the Peacemaking/Probation Department uses a holistic approach in our Talking Circle, in other words our talking circles use our traditional values and community norms.

Restorative Justice Circles

Restorative justice circles use traditional talking circles as the format they follow, and using the terminology. One main difference between traditional talking circle and restorative justice circles, is the use of Judges and lawyers, as Neutral, impartial peacemakers this path is the "Sentencing Circle"

Traditional Talking Circles

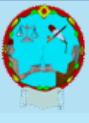
The traditions and values, along with the community's norms play an important part in the conducting a traditional talking circle. It is the community that gives the traditional talking circle its voice.

"Talking Circles -- In a Talking Circle, participants explore a particular issue or topic from many different perspectives. Talking Circles do not attempt to reach consensus on the topic. Rather, they allow all voices to be respectfully heard and offer participants diverse perspectives to stimulate their reflections."

Author: Kay Pranis

The Peacemaking/Probation Department's, "Peacemaking Talking Circle" is the final component of the Peacemaking service. Our talking circle has a single goal. That is to help offenders accept and take the responsibly of their actions and to address how the offender can make the victim whole. The talking circle is made up of caring tribal community citizens volunteering to help keep our community safe by using their wisdom and life experiences.

The Peacemaking Talking Circle addresses the offender's issues, and if appropriate the victim can be part of the talking circle and provide their input as what will start the healing process for them.



PEACEMAKING TRAINING

By Austen J. Brauker, Peacemaking/Probation Department



AN INTRODUCTION TO PEACEMAKING and SACRED CIRCLES

The Indian Village Camp is designed to teach basic wilderness survival skills, enhance personal social and behavioral skills, increase appreciation for nature and create an improved sense of spiritual understanding. These skills will be taught from a Native American cultural perspective. The following section will address the method and format by which this information will be presented. Consistency is important and staff must make their best attempt to ensure that this process is kept intact. It requires a uniform application from our adult leaders to retain its integrity. The Peacemaking talking circle will be the primary structure and explanations of the circle will help staff to understand the basic concepts of using the circle, what it means from a cultural standpoint and how to facilitate its functionality.

As a camp leader at Indian Village, you have the opportunity to make a lasting impression and greatly affect the lives of participating youth. You will be a role model for campers and will face unique challenges and responsibilities. Your role as a leader is vital to the success of Indian Village Camp. You will initiate specialized activities and help to provide experiences that will meet the needs of our youth clients in a positive way. You will be instrumental in providing an environment that is safe, healthy, educational and fun. Learning to use and understand the circle concept of restorative justice, balanced and open communication and the underlying philosophy is extremely important to achieving the overall goals of addressing problematic issues within our troubled youth. The following section will assist you in this process and give you effective tools to deal with even the most extreme situations if they are applied carefully, thoughtfully and with the intent to heal.

WE WILL BE TRAINING OUR ADULT LEADERS! (They will have to undergo criminal background checks, fingerprints will be kept on file along with their resume, letters of intent, letters of reference and proof of being trained.) The following sections will be covered in the circle part of the staff training regarding circles and the process involved...

Here is an example of the staff training section regarding verbal aggression:

SOME FORMS OF VERBAL AGGRESSION

Defiant Questioning is a method that is used to undermine staff authority, to divert attention and to waste time. It is often used to get out of responsibilities or to avoid camp duties. This is an avoidance tactic. This is a passive aggressive attack and can be a sign of inciting others in the group to become defiant. The "clowning around types" will often use joking as a way to manipulate the group and staff by gaining their



attention and distracting them. When a person is being overly loud or demanding attention, look around to see what the others are doing. It may be a cover for diverting your attention away from something else that is happening in the camp. Do not allow the attention seekers and clowns to befriend you or develop a special relationship with you because of their likability. You are not there to be their friend. You are their mentor, their leader and their role model. You are an adult. Let them bond with other participants but keep your relationship with them on a different level that cannot be mistaken as a peer relationship. Do not let them disrespect or undermine your position as an adult staff leader by letting them call you nick-names or allowing them to see you as the butt of any joke. If you let them do this you

have lost control and will not be taken seriously. They must respect you. Be very careful of overly friendly participants, they are most likely up to something and trying to manipulate your authority as the adult leader. You are there to make sure they are safe and have a positive experience but not to be their friend. Never let your guard down and never let yourself be perceived as being on their level. Listen for veiled threats such as "I better not see you outside of here!" This is a really direct threat, but veiled within the statement so as not to be perceived as such. These veiled threats are just as real as an overt threat, and sometimes even more dangerous.

Verbally refusing to follow directives is basic noncompliance. This form of aggression is basically refusing to do what they are told to do or not performing their assigned tasks. It is a direct defiance of authority and should be met with clearly defined and reasonable consequences. This is a potential sign of escalating aggression and should be a warning sign for a possible physical attack.

Participants may vent their frustrations by mumbling, making side comments or gestures. It can escalate and become a rant or tirade. They may yell and scream, kick or throw things or even jump up and down like they have lost their minds. This can be an intense explosion but fortunately, the high energy required for such a tantrum takes away energy they may have for a physical attack. It is a pressurized explosion of built up frustrations and emotions. During this process they will often verbally reveal something deeper within themselves because their defenses are down and things are pouring out of them unchecked. Listen for deeper problems that they may reveal during this venting process.

Sometimes a participant will make an attempt to engage others in their defiance. This can be very dangerous. They may try to get other participants to band together and incite a coup. An influential or charismatic person can do this in the right situation. If this kind of aggression is taking place the staff should try to eliminate their potential supporters from the equation by sending them to their personal circles or backing away so the participant who is inciting the others to rebel has to follow them away from the others. The audience and other participants are the fuel for inciting behavior. Without them, the participant is alone in their defiance.

Often a physical attack is preceded by some kind of verbal or physical form of intimidation. Be aware of body language and general movements of participants such as the order they assume in a line or when they enter the circle. Intimidators will often use entrances or doorways to block or physically impose themselves on other people. This is also a place where sexual intimidation can occur because the limited space allows for more intimate contact. Inappropriate touching and invasion of another person's personal space will often occur in tight quarters, in lines or be made to appear as an accident. Threats of violence are a form of verbal intimidation. Verbal intimidation comes from nick-names and demeaning remarks. Verbal intimidation is often made to seem as if it is just a joke. Do not let participants call each other by anything other than their names. Watch for grooming behavior or favoritism. Intimidation can often be disguised as a nice gesture but really it is a form of banking favors, and a system established for owing someone something else at a later time. When a participant feels that they owe someone or are in debt to them it opens the door for intimidation and allows for one participant to have control over another.

Within verbal communication are many nuances of communication that also occur along with the direct denotative meaning of the words themselves. Inflections and tone are very important to how our words are perceived. Sarcasm is a good example of words meaning something

other than what the words themselves are saying. Listen for clues such as indications of emotions. Listen for detachment or an uncaring tone, anger or hidden aggression, impatience or getting fed up, condescending tones, disregard, disbelief, take note of the volume. These are mostly negative attributes, but our words can also be laced with positive nuances such as indicating caring or being genuine, being kind and supportive, showing attentiveness and curiosity, and showing interest.

Here are some examples of other sections on how to use different types of circles:

USING THE SACRED CIRCLE: THE PEACEMAKING TALKING CIRCLE, CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITHIN THE CIRCLE, VIOLENT AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR, REDUCING STRESS IN A HIGH ANXIETY SITUATION, SOME FORMS OF VERBAL AGGRESSION, NONVERBAL COMMUNICATIONS, THE ART OF TEAMBUILDING, THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS, THE MEDICINE WHEEL.

OTHER TYPES OF CIRCLES: INTRODUCTION CIRCLE, TEACHING OR INFORMATIONAL CIRCLES, FEEDBACK CIRCLE, SENTENCING CIRCLE, THE PERSONAL CIRCLE, OFFERING THANKS CIRCLE, STORYTELLING CIRCLE, GAME OR ACTIVITY CIRCLE, LANGUAGE CIRCLE, HEALING CIRCLE, COUNCIL CIRCLE, THE JUMPING MOUSE CIRCLE (or Web Circle), CONFRONTATION CIRCLE

Please contact the Peacemaking Department if you want to volunteer to be an adult leader. There will be some stipends available later on for those who pass training and the screening process. We also are accepting donations of camp equipment, stories of our oral traditions, non-perishable food items, anything that could help with the maintenance of the camp and its programs. If you have any questions, call us.

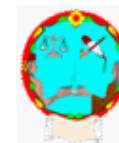
Austen J. Brauker 231-398-2240 or Patrick D. Wilson 231-398-2239.

Patrick D. Wilson,
Peacemaking/Probation Supervisor
Phone: (231) 398-2239
E-mail: pwilson@lrboi.com

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
PEACEMAKING/PROBATION DEPARTMENT
"Odenaang Enjinoojimoying"
3031 Domres Road Manistee, Michigan 49660

Austen Brauker,
Peacemaking/ Probation Assistant
Phone: (231) 398-2240
E-mail: abrauker@lrboi.com

Come out and join us for our monthly Peacemaking



**Aanii piish (where) ... Justice Center
Wenesh pii (when). May 31st at 5:30**
NOTE: The meeting is the last Monday of every month.



LRBOI SEALED BID FORM

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
Phone: 231-398-6673
Fax: 231-398-6683
melikan@lrboi.com

Name:					Date:				
Address:									
City:				State:			Zip:		
Phone (AM):				Phone (PM):					

Conditions of Purchase

The undersigned agrees to the following terms:

1. That the acquired vehicle is purchased in an **AS IS** condition;
2. That the minimum acceptable bid is \$10,000;
3. That payment in full of the outstanding balance by certified check must occur on or before 4pm within 3 days of the bid acceptance date and received by LRBOI Accounting, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660;
4. That arrangement for vehicle pick-up must be approved at payment date and be within 7 days;
5. That failure to pick up the vehicle within 7 days and remove from Tribal property will make your bid unacceptable;
6. That LRBOI reserves the right to retract, cancel, or reopen bidding;
7. That bids must be received by April 30, 2010 at 4pm by LRBOI Property Officer, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660.

Please accept the following bid (s):

YEAR	MODEL	OFFER (\$)
2007	TOYOTA TUNDRA RED PICKUP - approx. 79,000 miles	
V8 4.7 Liter, Automatic, 2WD, stability Control, Air Conditioning, Power Steering, Tilt Wheel, AM/FM Stereo MP3 (Single CD), Dual Front Air Bags, ABS, good condition		

Tribal Member Signature

Tribal ID #



LRBOI SEALED BID FORM

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
Phone: 231-336-6872
Fax: 231-336-6882
mvelikan@lrboi.com

Name:

Date:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone (AM):

Phone (PM):

Conditions of Purchase

The undersigned agrees to the following terms:

1. That the acquired vehicle is purchased in an **AS IS** condition;
2. That the minimum acceptable bid is \$4,000;
3. That payment in full of the outstanding balance by certified check must occur on or before 4pm within 3 days of the bid acceptance date and received by LRBOI Accounting, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660;
4. That arrangement for vehicle pick-up must be approved at payment date and be within 7 days;
5. That failure to pick up the vehicle within 7 days and remove from Tribal property will make your bid unacceptable;
6. That LRBOI reserves the right to retract, cancel, or reopen bidding;
7. That bids must be received by April 30, 2010 at 4pm by LRBOI Property Officer, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660.

Please accept the following bid (s):

YEAR	MODEL	OFFER (\$)
2006	DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB - approx. 145,000 miles	
V8, 4.7 Liter, Automatic, 4WD, Air Conditioning, AM/FM Stereo, Dual Front Air Bags, Power Steering, Cassette, S/T package, cloth seating, average to rough condition		

Tribal Member Signature

Tribal ID #

National Indian Health Board



(In a message to our elected leaders, former LRBOI Health Clinic Director Jessica Burger shared the good news about the future of health care for our people)

Good Afternoon Ogema Romanelli, Speaker Parsons and Recorder Sam, I wanted to share this press release with you. We are all very elated here, and the work continues as we move to affirm the reconciliation bill in the Senate.

There are several key provisions in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that will have an impact on our Tribal citizens and the future of health care delivery at Little River Band, here are a few: funding for recruitment and retention of medical professionals, facility construction and maintenance and improvement funds for existing facilities, behavioral health services targeted programs for youth suicide prevention and addiction/substance abuse counseling, long term care for the elderly and the continued financing of disease prevention/health promotion programs. There are many more in the overarching Health Care Reform bill, and I trust the legislative liaison and your lobby contacts in DC have kept you up to speed on those.

I wish to thank especially and acknowledge Councilor Johnson for contacting me this past weekend and seeking contact information as we made the final push this past weekend. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

I wish you much success and may the delivery of health care at Little River Band continue to evolve in a manner that creates a healthy community for all of its citizens."

Jessica L. Burger, RN
Deputy Director

Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Applauds Congress

(Gresham, WI) Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribe President Michele Stanley applauds Congress for its recent action that provides a permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). The IHCIA is included in the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" that President Obama signed into law on Tuesday March 23, 2010.

President Obama was quoted as stating, "Earlier today, I signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the health insurance reform bill passed by Congress. In addition to reducing our deficit, making health care affordable for tens of millions of Americans, and

enacting some of the toughest insurance reforms in history, this bill also permanently reauthorizes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act which was first approved by Congress in 1976. As a Senator, I cosponsored this Act in 2007 because I believe it is unacceptable that Native American communities still face gaping health care disparities. Our responsibility to provide health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives derives from the nation-to-nation relationship between the federal and tribal governments. And today, with this bill, we have taken a critical step in fulfilling that responsibility by modernizing the Indian health care system and improving access to health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives."

President Stanley stated that along with the past leadership of MAST and Tribal Leaders across the nation we have pressed Congress for more than a decade to secure passage of the Indian Health Care Bill. The original Bill expired in 2001. Now we have a permanent law to address the needs of our people. President Stanley noted, however, the Midwest Tribes continue to lag behind in the funding of basic health care services; we have well over 200,000 tribally enrolled members from the Midwest. Her message has been consistent and continuous that the Midwest Tribes have the highest rates of all severe illness and has the lowest appropriated funding in all the regions. "We applaud members of Congress who have demonstrated their commitment to our people by making health care permanent to our Native Nations. Our life will not be affected overnight, but our jobs and desires of leading our Nations into positive and healthier directions have just been made a little easier. These laws and actions are historical and they show a firm commitment from this President and majority of Congress that they wish to live up to years of forgotten promises and contracts," added Stanley.

America Reaffirms Health Care for Indian Country

Washington, DC – The United States' 564 federally recognized tribes claim victory with today's historic passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The House passed

the Senate's health care reform bill by a vote of 219 to 212 which includes the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), placing in effect health care legislation that American Indians and Alaska Natives have been requesting from Congress for the past ten years.

The IHCIA was originally enacted in 1976 by Congress to address the deplorable health conditions occurring in Indian Country. The law provides the key legal authority for the provision of health care to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people. Over the past decade, tribes have worked endlessly to reauthorize the IHCIA in order to expand, improve, and modernize the health delivery and services in tribal communities. In recent months, the House and the Senate pledged to support the IHCIA by including its provisions within the overall health care reform legislation.

"No one can deny the intense political climate that has been present in the debates regarding health care reform. However, there is one issue that has remained consistently agreed upon: Indian Country is in dire need of health care reform," said Reno Keoni Franklin, Chairman of the National Indian Health Board. "Today, we thank the diligence and persistence that President Obama and Congress demonstrated to Indian Country in making sure that the Indian Health Care Improvement Act was included in the overall health care reform bill," said Franklin.

"This inclusion of the IHCIA reaffirms the government's trust responsibility to provide health care to our people," said Rachel Joseph, a member of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of California and Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on the Reauthorization of the IHCIA. Joseph has worked on the IHCIA for more than a decade. "Today they have honored our ancestors, and have acknowledged that through the cessation of over 400 million acres of land, tribes have secured a de facto contract that entitles us to health care. American Indian and Alaska Native people will view this legislation not only as it pertains to health care, but will also celebrate it as an important policy statement that has been enacted into law by the United States," said Joseph. No other segment of the American population experiences greater

health disparities than the AI/AN population. In 2003, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights reported that American Indian youth are twice as likely to commit suicide; AI/ANs are 630 percent more likely to die from alcoholism, 650 percent more likely to die from tuberculosis, 328 percent more likely to die from diabetes, and 204 percent more likely to suffer accidental death when compared with other groups. The disparities have largely been attributed to a serious lack of funding sufficient to advance the health care infrastructure, and the level and quality of health services for AI/AN.

"It is important to note the provisions which have been included will greatly improve Indian Country's health care system. For instance, this landmark legislation brings the establishment of a comprehensive behavioral health system for Indian Country. Tribes will finally have a way to address a myriad of behavioral health problems such as substance abuse, suicide (especially among the youth), and domestic violence," said Buford Rolin, Vice Chairman of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and Co-Chairman of the National Steering Committee for the Reauthorization of the IHCA. The new legislation brings substantial developments for Indian Country's health care through the following ways: improving workforce development and recruitment of health professionals in Indian Country; providing funds for facilities construction as well as maintenance and improvement funds to address priority facility needs; creating opportunities for access to and financing of necessary health care services for AI/AN; and assisting with the modernization in the delivery of health services provided by the Indian Health Service.

"We thank all the American Indian and Alaska Native tribes; the Honorable President Obama and his administration; the membership of the House and the Senate; the National Congress of American Indians; the National Council of Urban Indian Health; the National Indian Gaming Association; the National American Indian Housing Council; and the National Indian Education Association. And, we give thanks to the countless friends and advocates of Indian Health who have helped to ensure health care for all Americans. I especially want to thank the members of the National Steering Committee and the staff members of the National Indian Health Board," said Reno Franklin, "While we celebrate this historic event in bringing hope to our communities, we look forward in working together to start a new legacy for the Indian health care system."

The National Indian Health Board advocates on behalf of all Tribal Governments and American Indians/Alaska Natives in their efforts to provide quality health care. Visit www.nihb.org for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Election Board Office has moved. It is now located in the Old Community Center on US-31 in Manistee.
The telephone number is (231) 398-6709.



Manistee Ford-Mercury is pleased to again offer Little River of Ottawa Indians Tribal Government employees and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Members (including employee and member families) special discount pricing on new vehicles. New Ford and Mercury vehicles that are eligible for the supplier discount will be made available at that price. In addition, all parts and service customers will be given 15% off. This is valid on any non-sale or coupon related purchases. All customers must present their employee or tribal member identification prior to purchase.

**We look forward to assisting the entire
Little River organization!**

Make sure to visit

<http://manisteeFord.dealerconnection.com/>

Tax-Exempt Quotas

Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.
Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 20 packs per Tribal member.

Tribal ID Cards Must be Encoded

Don't forget to have to have your Tribal ID card encoded so you can continue to make tax-exempt purchases at the Little River Trading Post.

New software is being installed to calculate tax exemptions and compile records required for tax exemptions. Tribal members will swipe their ID cards instead of filling out logs. The implementation date for the new software will be posted at the Little River Trading Post once the software is up and running. After the implementation date, no tax-exempt purchases will be allowed without swiping your encoded Tribal ID card.

Please watch the Tribal website (www.lrbti.com), the Rapid River News, and future issues of Currents for updates on this process.

The Tribal Health Clinic has issued an update on the H1N1 Flu situation. As part of a CDC initiative, health care professionals are being asked to let their patients and communities know the following:

- The CDC continues to encourage people to get vaccinated throughout the flu season, which can last as late as May.
- On-going vaccination of people with certain health conditions is particularly important because they also are at higher risk of serious flu-related complications.
- The CDC also is encouraging people 65 years and older to get vaccinated against 2009 H1N1. While less likely to get sick with 2009 H1N1 than younger people, people 65 and older are at higher risk of serious complications if they do get sick.

Be sure to check with your health care provider if you need more information concerning vaccinations and precautions to help prevent the spread of the flu and flu-like illness.

You may contact the LRBOI Tribal Health Clinic in Manistee at 1-888-382-8299.

Vaccines can be obtained through the local health departments.

Rental Housing Available

The Little River Band Housing Department still has one new rental home for lease at Aki Maadiziwin. The home has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, full basement and a two car attached garage.

The home is a market based rental, Tribal member families are not required to be low income. The home rents for \$625.00 per month plus utilities. Security/Pet deposits and references are required. Background checks will be conducted, as with all residents at Aki. This home is not a HUD funded home; therefore, we do not follow HUD guidelines.

If you would like an application, please call Chad Gehrke in the Housing Department Toll Free 1.888.723.8288 or direct at 231.398.6878.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS* (Effective October 1, 2009)

Household Size	48 Contiguous United States Income Limits	Alaska Income Limits
1	\$1,044	\$1,369
2	\$1,356	\$1,759
3	\$1,667	\$2,149
4	\$1,991	\$2,539
5	\$2,329	\$2,929
6	\$2,666	\$3,334
7	\$2,978	\$3,724
8	\$3,290	\$4,114
Each additional member:	+ \$312	+ \$390

* The net monthly income standard for each household size is the sum of the applicable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) net monthly income eligibility standard and the applicable SNAP standard deduction.

Income Deductions - see 7 CFR 253.6(f)

Dependent Care Deduction - Households that qualify for the dependent care deduction are allowed a deduction of actual dependent care costs paid monthly to a non-household member.
Earned Income Deduction - Households with earned income are allowed a deduction of 20 percent of their earned income.

Medicare Part B Medical Insurance and Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Premiums Households that incur the cost of Medicare Part B medical insurance and/or Part D prescription drug coverage premiums are allowed a deduction for the monthly cost of the premiums.

Child Support Deduction - Households that incur the cost of legally required child support to or for a non-household member are allowed a deduction for the amount of monthly child support paid.

(Rev. 8/2009)

March 17th some specialized training was held at the Aki Community Center. The 2010 IHS Michigan Tribal Information Meeting looked at Sanitation Facilities construction. Some of the discussion Topics included: SFC program scope of services, program funding, and program guidelines/updates.

IHS Tribal contacts & program administrators attended from across the state. Also participating were water and sewer utility personnel.

The event was sponsored by the LRBOI Members Assistance Department and it was taught by Daniel Wallis, Mary Dahl, Dan Tadgerson, & John Butler



U-M initiates process for returning American Indian human remains

By Rick Fitzgerald
Public Affairs

U-M has begun outlining a process for the transfer of Native American human remains to Indian tribes.

Vice President for Research Stephen Forrest said the most recent activities are in response to the U.S. Department of the Interior's March 15 publication of a final rule clarifying how museums and other agencies — including the university — should handle Native American human remains that are under their control but for which no culturally affiliated Indian tribe has been identified.

"Now that the Department of the Interior has clarified the rule for transferring culturally unidentifiable human remains, it is important that the university reach out to tribal leaders and facilitate the transfer process," Forrest said.

Forrest said he anticipates having a process in place by the time the new federal rule takes effect May 14. The university has in its possession the remains of about 1,390 individuals unidentifiable with an existing tribe.

"The rule change recently announced pro-

vides a clear path for the transfer of the human remains in our possession," Forrest said. "We will move down that path in a transparent, swift and respectful manner." Officials and traditional religious leaders will be included in the consultation process. A letter to relevant tribes will be sent soon.

Last fall Forrest appointed the 12-member Advisory Committee on Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains under NAGPRA to provide advice and guidance on the procedures used to notify and consult with groups from whose tribal or aboriginal lands the remains were removed.

The new rule was adopted because the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 did not include rules for the disposition of culturally unidentifiable human remains.

The Department of the Interior published a proposed rule for public comment in 2007. The department received 138 written comments from Native American tribes and organizations, museums and scientific organizations, federal agencies and the public. The final rule addresses issues raised during that process.

NAGPRA required federal agencies and organizations that receive federal funds to submit to the Department of the Interior inventories of Native American human remains in their possessions and to include their best judgment as to whether the remains are culturally affiliated with a present day Indian tribe or known earlier group or are culturally unidentifiable because no shared group identity can be reasonably traced.

Culturally affiliated remains are repatriated upon request after a public comment period.

The new rule specifies that after appropriate consultation, transfer of culturally unidentifiable remains is to be made to an Indian tribe from whose tribal or aboriginal lands the remains were excavated or removed.

The U-M Museum of Anthropology has in its collection unidentifiable Native American remains from archaeological sites in 37 states.

Now that the new rule has clarified the process, Forrest said his office will be the university point of contact for requests and will take the necessary steps to facilitate the transfer of Native American human remains in the U-M collection to tribes.



By Andy Fitzpatrick - The Enquirer

Laura Spurr wore many hats in her 64 years of life: nurse, health official, fundraiser and tribal chairwoman for the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi.

Spurr died Friday from a heart attack suffered while she was in Temecula, Calif.,

according to a statement released by her family. She was there to speak at the Pechanga Resort & Casino about what she is probably best known for publicly in the Battle Creek area: the Fire-Keepers Casino, a project Spurr and the tribe pursued for nearly a decade.

The casino was one of Spurr's many projects she pursued throughout her life. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1967 with a

degree in nursing, she found herself working in the health field in Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago and Grosse Pointe.

Spurr also obtained a master's degree from Chicago's DePaul University with a double major in nursing administration and education.

In Washington, she was active in several organizations, such as the Personnel Committee for Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington and the Committee of the League of Women Voters.

Health continued to be an issue for Spurr, who served as the Chair of the Education Committee and the Health Committee at the tribe's Pine Creek reservation.

Spurr never stopped being a nurse, even in the days just prior to her death, according to RoAnn Beebe-Mohr, Tribal Council secretary.

"On our way out here, there was a medical emergency on the plane," Beebe-Mohr said by telephone from California. "Laura - being a registered nurse - stepped up and helped take care of this woman. She stayed with her until the paramedics boarded the plane."

Spurr also spearheaded the tribe's Mogoago Scholarship Fund and golf outing and reserved funds to build a 6,000-square foot health center at Pine Creek, which opened in 2008.

A member of the Tribal Council since 1999, Spurr saw the construction of FireKeepers Casino as a path to the improvement of living standards for the tribe.

"Laura was a tremendous leader with great vision who led our tribe during a period of growth and development," Homer Mandoka, tribal council vice chairman, said in a statement released Saturday. "Her legacy will be with us for generations. She will be greatly missed."



March 15, 2010

Aanii Activity/Recreation Coordinator,

I would like to inform you that the date for the 23rd Annual Michigan Indian Family Olympics has been set and will be held on Friday, July 30, 2010 at the Bennett Track on Central Michigan University's Campus.

This year's committee will begin meeting in the next few weeks to focus on how to enhance and make improvements for the 2010 event. Like last year's games, we will be asking other tribes to lead and op-

erate one of the events/areas. The assistance and volunteerism last year was tremendous! Each tribe excelled in coordinating their specific position and it made for a very smoothly ran day. As the Olympics get closer I will contact the coordinator from your tribe to give them more information on what event your tribe will lead this year.

Again, this year we will not be able to provide an event participation t-shirt. We encourage you to come in your own team shirt that represents your tribe. If funds are donated through our tribe, we hope to provide water bottles again this year. Limiting the recycling was quite successful at last year's games and made clean up much quicker.

As we have done for a few years now, pre-registration will be done from our website. We will be typing names on labels for the participant wristbands. Therefore, submitting pre-registration information will be extremely helpful. This will help us create a packet for your team members that have their wrist bands in them before event day. Online registration will open on June 1st.

If you have any suggestions or questions for this year's event, please contact me at (989) 775-4694 or email me at jharman@sagchip.org. Also, if you would like this letter and future letters sent to other individuals who help with forming your team, please send me their information or have them contact me.

We look forward to having your community join us this year for this wonderful event!

Baamaapii minwaa Miigwetch,
Jaden M. Harman
Event Coordinator
Michigan Indian Family Olympics

L.R.B.O.I. Safety Committee



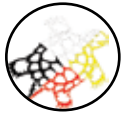
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Don't take shortcuts – they can lead straight to injuries.

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Tribal Govern- ment Internships



Tribal Members interested in doing an
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Government Office please contact:
Department of Commerce:
231-398-6806

Government Closes for the following Holidays

- *New Years Day
- *Treaty Recognition Day
- *Memorial Day
- *Independence Day
- *Labor Day
- *Reaffirmation Day (September 21st)
- *Veteran's Day
- *Thanksgiving Day
- *Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- *Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- *Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be
available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.
Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of
the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call
first if you are not sure.

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The Warriors Society is
gathering photographs of members to be
use when thier office opens.

Please send photos of
our Warriors either in
uniform or in
civillian dress to
the address below



WARRIORS SOCIETY

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,
Warriors Society,
375 River Street, Manistee, Mi. 49660



CONGRATULATIONS JAYME!!!!
THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MARINES
We are proud of you and love you very much.
Dad, Melanie, Tia, Jessica, Jordyn, Ben & Kateri

Congratulations Jayme, Grandpa & Grandma Hicks are proud of you!

Tight Line Fishing Tournament

Bill Memberto has volunteered to accept names for SERVERS to work the lunch for this event. His phone number is 398-6728



HEALTH CLINIC UPCOMING EVENTS

Please watch the paper for the following education or activity events:

Traditional Food Teachings
Diabetes Talking Circle
Wii Bowling for Elders
Wii Bowling for Youths
If you have an interest in any of these events feel free to contact Holly Davis R.N., M.S.N. at 1-888-382-8299 or 231-398-6610.



*Happy Belated Birthday
Donna
March, 18
Sorry we missed it this year*

Love
Mom, brother Jerry
and your sisters
Peggy, Nancy, & Janie

Happy Birthday Uncle John Crampton (May 14th) from all of your family, relatives and friends"



It is getting to be that time of year again. Garden spots are available in the Mdaamnaaboo Ktigan community garden this growing season. If you or anyone you know is interested in growing a few vegetables in the community garden next to the old community center and Admin building, please contact the Education Department to stake a claim. There are 21 raised bed areas available and will go on a first come first served basis. Garden rules include no use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides, and you must be willing to tend your garden on a regular basis. It is way too early to start planting, but it is not too early to start getting your raised bed ready for planting in a couple of months. This year there will not be gift cards for plant purchase but we may have donated starter plants. Now's a good time to start thinking about seed starting, etc., so also a good time to sign up. Let us know. Yvonne at yparsons@lrboi.com or 398-6735 or Deb at ddavis@lrboi.com or 398-6724.

Yvonne

I know who I am
My Native Ancestors gave me
My resilience to always believe in myself
There may be no more stories of long ago, but
if I
Listen closely enough, the wind speaks ever
so gently of all things past.
If it weren't for my native ancestors -I'd be
just another being walking this planet
They gave me who I am
No one can take away who I am
My ancestors made sure of that.
My heart and soul have never wandered,
because
I know who I am,
I may wear shoes and jeans
But my heart will always were moccasins and
a buckskin dress!
Because you see, I know who I am
Bonita R. Billings



On the Friday evening before the Spring Membership Meeting, Ogema Larry Romanelli held his regular 'Meet-n-Greet' in the Three Fires Conference Center.

The first hour was devoted to the Ogema speaking with the membership. He addressed some of the issues facing the Executive Branch right now and addressed structural and procedural changes being examined to fine tune the departments as they serve the membership. This included a study of organizational charts from other tribes compared to ours.

In addition, The second hour of the evening was turned over to the Elders for a discussion by the Ogema, Tribal Council members and representatives of the Board of Directors. Ron Pete, Chairman of the Elders Committee presided and led the discussion with questions which had been submitted in advance.

This part of the meeting was taped and copies of the questions and answers will be given in the Currents beginning in the June issue. Most of the discussion concerned the proposed changes to the makeup of the Casino Board of Directors. Tribal Council feels that some of the representation on the board should be from Tribal Council. The Council, Ogema and representatives of the board addressed the proposal and expressed their feelings both for and against such a change.



Commerce Director Robert Memberto addressed the performance of the Trading Post and Muschigon Construction. He provided actual facts on how both enterprises are making the tribe money and commented that, 'These are the facts from the balance sheets, contrary to what rumors you might read on the internet.'





Waawaaskone-Giizis (Flower Moon)
May 2010 Vol.7 Issue 5

Megwa Ezhiweback

Spring Membership 2010



The Spring LRBOI Membership Meeting was held at the Little River Casino Resort on the 11th of April to the largest turnout ever! 377 Tribal Citizens attended along with their families bringing the estimated attendance to around 800.

At this meeting tribal citizens had the opportunity to Encode their Tribal ID Cards to allow for easy discounting at the Trading Post; they could pick up corrected copies of the tribal

book by James McClurken of "Our People, Our Journey;" and they had the chance to stroll down the hall by Three Fires and visit booths from various tribal departments.

In addition, three departments held special Breakout Sessions during the morning in the Conference Center addressing balancing the natural resources of the tribe; the upcoming Indian Village Camp and Human Resources Department on Em-

ployment and Training. In addition, in the Bodweadamiinh Room, Tribal Historical Preservation Director (and former Ogema) Jonnie "Jay" Sam presented a teaching on the 'Seven Grandfather Teachings.'

During the afternoon session updates on the finances of the tribe, casino and business enterprises were delivered by CFO Steven Wheeler, Commerce Director Robert Memberto and the Ogema. Tribal citizens also had the opportunity to address the membership with concerns and comments.

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